

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S4973–S5025

Measures Introduced: Fifteen bills were introduced, as follows: S. 1434–1448. **Pages S5017–18**

Measures Reported:

S. 1302, to authorize the Administrator of General Services to convey a parcel of real property in Tracy, California, to the City of Tracy. (S. Rept. No. 112–40)

S. 1313, to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the National Estuary Program, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 112–41)

S. 401, to help Federal prosecutors and investigators combat public corruption by strengthening and clarifying the law, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 409, to ban the sale of certain synthetic drugs.

S. 839, to ban the sale of certain synthetic drugs.

Page S5017

Measures Passed:

Small Business Program Extension and Reform Act: Senate passed H.R. 2608, to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S4974–75**

Reid (for Landrieu) Amendment No. 588, in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S4974–75**

Message from the President: Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Executive Order 13441 with respect to Lebanon; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–16) **Pages S5015–16**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

David T. Danielson, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy).

LaDoris Guess Harris, of Georgia, to be Director of the Office of Minority Economic Impact, Department of Energy.

Evan Jonathan Wallach, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Federal Circuit.

Ronnie Abrams, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

Rudolph Contreras, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

Pages S5024–25

Measures Placed on the Calendar:

Pages S4973, S5016

Executive Communications: **Pages S5016–17**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S5018–19**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S5019–23**

Additional Statements: **Pages S5014–15**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S5023–24**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S5024**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S5024**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 10:48 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Friday, July 29, 2011. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S5024.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

NOMINATION

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Brian T. Baenig, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senator Leahy, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

SPECIALTY CROPS AND ORGANICS

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee concluded a hearing to examine opportunities for specialty crops and organics in the farm bill, after

receiving testimony from Ann Wright, Deputy Under Secretary, Marketing and Regulatory Programs, and Catherine Woteki, Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics, both of the Department of Agriculture; Dennis P. Engelhard, Michigan Bean Commission, Unionville; Kim Tait, Tait Farm Foods, Centre Hall, Pennsylvania; Paul Bencal, Lake Erie Regional Grape Extension, Ransomville, New York; Robert Woolley, Dave Wilson Nursery, Hickman, California; Glenn Abbett, American Fruit and Vegetable Processors and Growers Coalition, LaCrosse, Indiana; and Charles Wingard, Walter P. Rawl and Son, Inc., Pelion, South Carolina.

FEDERAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE BUDGETING

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government concluded a hearing to examine Federal disaster assistance budgeting, focusing on the role of the Federal government in mitigating the economic impact of severe weather events through long-term budgetary planning, after receiving testimony from Kathryn D. Sullivan, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Environmental Observation and Prediction, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; James Rivera, Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Disaster Assistance, Small Business Administration; David C. Trimble, Director, Natural Resources and Environment, Government Accountability Office; Donald J. Wuebbles, University of Illinois, Urbana; and Franklin W. Nutter, Reinsurance Association of America, Washington, D.C.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Admiral Jonathan W. Greenert, USN for reappointment to the grade of admiral and to be Chief of Naval Operations, and Lieutenant General Charles H. Jacoby, Jr., USA to be general and to be Commander, United States Northern Command, and Commander, North American Aerospace Defense Command, both of the Department of Defense, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

AVIATION FUELS

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security concluded a hearing to examine aviation fuels, focusing on needs, challenges, and alternatives, after receiving testimony from Lourdes Maurice, Executive Director, Office of Environment and Energy, Office of Policy, International Affairs, and Environment, Federal Aviation Administration; Terry Yonkers, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations,

Environment and Logistics, Department of Defense; Judith Canales, Administrator, Rural Business Service, Department of Agriculture; Billy M. Glover, Boeing Commercial Airplanes, Tom Todaro, AltAir Fuels, LLC, and John Plaza, Imperium Renewables, Inc., all of Seattle, Washington; Sharon Pinkerton, Air Transport Association of America, Inc., Washington, D.C.; and Richard L. Altman, Commercial Aviation Alternative Fuels Initiative, Wethersfield, Connecticut.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Charles DeWitt McConnell, of Ohio, to be Assistant Secretary of Energy for Fossil Energy, and Rebecca R. Wodder, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

NATIONAL PARKS BILLS

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Subcommittee on National Parks concluded a hearing to examine S. 264, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the State of Mississippi 2 parcels of surplus land within the boundary of the Natchez Trace Parkway, S. 265, to authorize the acquisition of core battlefield land at Champion Hill, Port Gibson, and Raymond for addition to Vicksburg National Military Park, S. 324, to amend the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Development Act to extend to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Commission, S. 764, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to make technical corrections to the segment designations for the Chetco River, Oregon, S. 864, to designate a Distinguished Flying Cross National Memorial at the March Field Air Museum in Riverside, California, S. 883, to authorize National Mall Liberty Fund D.C. to establish a memorial on Federal land in the District of Columbia to honor free persons and slaves who fought for independence, liberty, and justice for all during the American Revolution, S. 888, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate a segment of Illabot Creek in Skagit County, Washington, as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, S. 925, to designate Mt. Andrea Lawrence, S. 970, to designate additional segments and tributaries of White Clay Creek, in the States of Delaware and Pennsylvania, as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, S. 1063, to allow for the harvest of gull eggs by the Huna Tlingit people within Glacier Bay National Park in the State of Alaska, and S. 1134, to authorize the St. Croix River Crossing Project with appropriate mitigation measures to promote river values, after receiving testimony from Senators Klobuchar and Johnson (WI);

Peggy O'Dell, Deputy Director, National Park Service, Department of the Interior; Joel Holtrop, Deputy Chief, National Forest System, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture; Mayor Ken Harycki, and Roger L. Tomten, both of Stillwater, Minnesota; and Jack Hession, Alaska Chapter Sierra Club, Cool, California.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Juan F. Vasquez, of Texas, who was introduced by Senator Cornyn, and Maurice B. Foley, of Maryland, both to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court, and Janice Eberly, of Illinois, to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Mark D. Acton, of Kentucky, and Robert G. Taub, of New York, who was introduced by former Representative John M. McHugh, both to be a Commissioner of the Postal Regulatory Commission, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

FDA USER FEES

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine Food and Drug Administration (FDA) user fees, focusing on advancing public health, after receiving testimony from Margaret A. Hamburg, Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 546, to extend the Federal recognition to the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana;

S. 379, to extend Federal recognition to the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe-Eastern Division, the Upper Mattaponi

Tribe, the Rappahannock Tribe, Inc., the Monacan Indian Nation, and the Nansemond Indian Tribe;

S. 1218, to provide for the recognition of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina;

S. 703, to amend the Long-Term Leasing Act, with amendments; and

S. 636, to provide the Quileute Indian Tribe Tsunami and Flood Protection, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

INDIAN GAMING REGULATORY ACT

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine enforcing the "Indian Gaming Regulatory Act", focusing on the role of the National Indian Gaming Commission and tribes as regulators, after receiving testimony from Tracie Stevens, Chairwoman, National Indian Gaming Commission; Ernest Stevens, Jr., and Mark Van Norman, both the National Indian Gaming Association, Washington, D.C.; Jamie Hummingbird, National Tribal Gaming Commissioners/Regulators (NTGCR), Tahlequah, Oklahoma; J. Kurt Luger, Great Plains Indian Gaming Association (GPIGA), Bismarck, North Dakota; Sheila Morago, Oklahoma Indian Gaming Association, Oklahoma City; and John B. Meskill, Mohegan Tribal Gaming Commission, Uncasville, Connecticut.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 401, to help Federal prosecutors and investigators combat public corruption by strengthening and clarifying the law, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 409, to ban the sale of certain synthetic drugs;

S. 605, to amend the Controlled Substances Act to place synthetic drugs in Schedule I; and

S. 839, to ban the sale of certain synthetic drugs.

BUSINESS MEETING

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee ordered favorably reported an original bill entitled, "Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012".

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 17 public bills, H.R. 2677–2693; and 6 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 67 and H. Res. 377–381 were introduced.

Pages H5732–33

Additional Cosponsors:

Page H5734

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 382, waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules (H. Rept. 112–185).

Page H5732

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Webster to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Page H5663

Recess: The House recessed at 11:47 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon.

Page H5675

Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2012: The House resumed consideration of H.R. 2584, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012. Consideration of the measure began on July 25th.

Page H5688

Rejected:

Blackburn amendment that was debated on July 27th that sought to reduce funding for State and Tribal Assistance Grants by \$30 million and apply the savings to the spending reduction account (by a recorded vote of 114 ayes to 314 noes, Roll No. 664);

Pages H5688–89

Richardson amendment that was debated on July 27th that sought to increase funding, by offset, for State and Tribal Assistance Grants by \$5 million (by a recorded vote of 168 ayes to 258 noes, Roll No. 665);

Page H5689

Lankford amendment that was debated on July 27th that sought to amend language relating to Clean Water State Revolving Fund capitalization grants and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund capitalization grants (by a recorded vote of 161 ayes to 263 noes, Roll No. 666);

Pages H5689–90

Gosar amendment that was debated on July 27th that sought to increase funding, by offset, for the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Fund by \$10 million (by a recorded vote of 130 ayes to 295 noes, Roll No. 667);

Pages H5690–91

Lankford amendment that was debated on July 27th that sought to eliminate funding for the Council on Environmental Quality and apply the savings

to the spending reduction account (by a recorded vote of 198 ayes to 227 noes, Roll No. 668);

Page H5691

Broun (GA) amendment (No. 14 printed in the Congressional Record of July 25, 2011) that was debated on July 27th that sought to reduce funding for Smithsonian Institution, Salaries and Expenses by \$55,624,000 and apply the savings to the spending reduction account (by a recorded vote of 110 ayes to 317 noes, Roll No. 669); and

Pages H5691–92

Walberg amendment that was debated on July 27th that sought to reduce funding for the National Endowment for the Arts by \$10,600,000 and apply the savings to the spending reduction account (by a recorded vote of 181 ayes to 240 noes with 1 voting “present”, Roll No. 670).

Pages H5692–93

H. Res. 363, the rule providing for consideration of the bill, was agreed to on July 25th.

Committee Elections: The House agreed to H. Res. 377, electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives.

Page H5693

Faster FOIA Act of 2011: The House began consideration of S. 627, amended, to establish the Commission on Freedom of Information Act Processing Delays.

Pages H5693–H5721

Pursuant to the rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in part A of H. Rept. 112–184, modified by the amendments printed in part B of that report, shall be considered as adopted.

Page H5693

H. Res. 375, the rule providing for consideration of the bill, was agreed to by a yea-and-nay vote of 238 yeas to 186 nays, Roll No. 663, after the previous question was ordered without objection.

Pages H5678–88

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Charles ‘Chip’ Lawrence Chan Post Office Building Designation Act: H.R. 2548, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6310 North University Street in Peoria, Illinois, as the “Charles ‘Chip’ Lawrence Chan Post Office Building” and

Pages H5721–22, H5729

Cecil L. Heftel Post Office Building Designation Act: H.R. 2149, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4354 Paoa Avenue in Honolulu, Hawaii, as the “Cecil L. Heftel Post Office Building”.

Pages H5728–29

Suspensions—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measures under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed:

Corporal Steven Blaine Riccione Post Office Designation Act: H.R. 2244, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 67 Castle Street in Geneva, New York, as the “Corporal Steven Blaine Riccione Post Office”; **Pages H5722–23**

Sergeant Jason W. Vaughn Post Office Designation Act: H.R. 2213, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 801 West Eastport Street in Iuka, Mississippi, as the “Sergeant Jason W. Vaughn Post Office”; **Pages H5723–24**

Sergeant Matthew J. Fenton Post Office Designation Act: H.R. 789, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 20 Main Street in Little Ferry, New Jersey, as the “Sergeant Matthew J. Fenton Post Office”; **Pages H5724–25**

First Lieutenant Oliver Goodall Post Office Building Designation Act: H.R. 1975, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 281 East Colorado Boulevard in Pasadena, California, as the “First Lieutenant Oliver Goodall Post Office Building”; **Pages H5725–26**

John Pangelinan Gerber Post Office Building Designation Act: H.R. 1843, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 489 Army Drive in Barrigada, Guam, as the “John Pangelinan Gerber Post Office Building”; and **Pages H5726–27**

Matthew A. Pucino Post Office Designation Act: H.R. 2062, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 45 Meetinghouse Lane in Sagamore Beach, Massachusetts, as the “Matthew A. Pucino Post Office”. **Pages H5727–28**

Recess: The House recessed at 6:50 p.m. and reconvened at 11:54 p.m. **Page H5729**

Suspension—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure which was debated on July 26th:

Instructing the Inspector General of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation to study the impact of insured depository institution failures: H.R. 2056, amended, to instruct the Inspector General of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation to study the impact of insured depository institution failures. **Page H5729**

Presidential Message: Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress that the national emergency declared with respect to the actions of certain persons to undermine the sovereignty of Lebanon or its democratic processes and institutions is to continue in effect beyond August 1, 2011—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered printed (H. Doc. 112–47). **Page H5678**

Senate Messages: Messages received from the Senate today appear on pages H5663, H5670.

Senate Referrals: S. 1188 was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and S. Con. Res. 26 was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs. **Page H5729**

Quorum Calls—Votes: One yea-and-nay vote and seven recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H5687–88, H5688–89, H5689, H5689–90, H5690–91, H5691, H5691–92, H5692–93. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 11:54 p.m.

Committee Meetings

EXAMINATION OF USDA RESEARCH PROGRAMS

Committee on Agriculture: Subcommittee on Rural Development, Research, Biotechnology, and Foreign Agriculture held a hearing on Agricultural Program Audit: Examination of USDA Research Programs. The following Department of Agriculture officials: Edward B. Knipling, Administrator, Agricultural Research Service, Chavonda Jacobs-Young, Acting Director, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Cynthia Clark, Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service; and Laurian Unnevehr, Acting Administrator, Economic Research Service.

DOD’S PLANS FOR FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT AND ACHIEVING AUDIT READINESS

Committee on Armed Services: Panel on Defense Financial Management and Auditability Reform held a meeting to receive testimony on DOD’s plans for financial management improvement and achieving audit readiness. Testimony was heard from Robert F. Hale, Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), Department of Defense; Elizabeth A. McGrath, Deputy Chief Management Officer, Department of Defense; and Asif A. Khan, Director, Financial Management and Assurance, GAO.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Full Committee held a markup of the following: H.R. 2405, the “Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Reauthorization Act”; H.R. 1254, the “Synthetic Drug Control Act”; and H.R. 1852, the “Children’s Hospital GME Support Reauthorization Act.” The following were ordered reported as amended: H.R. 1254; and H.R. 2405. The following was ordered reported without amendment: H.R. 1852.

INSURANCE OVERSIGHT

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Insurance, Housing and Community Opportunity held a hearing entitled “Insurance Oversight: Policy Implications for U.S. Consumers, Businesses and Jobs.” Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HAGUE CONVENTION ON THE CIVIL ASPECTS OF INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights held a hearing on Improving Implementation of the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction. Testimony was heard from Susan Jacobs, Special Advisor for Children’s Issues, Bureau of Consular Affairs, Department of State, and Kurt Campbell, Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, Department of State.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection and Security Technologies held a markup of H.R. 2658, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enhance the ability of the Federal Protective Service to provide adequate security for the prevention of terrorist activities and for the promotion of homeland security, and for other purposes. The bill was ordered reported, as amended, to the full Committee.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee continued markup of the following: H.R. 1981, the “Protecting Children From Internet Pornographers Act of 2011”; H.R. 1433, the “Private Property Rights Protection Act of 2011”; H.R. 2633, the “Appeal Time Clarification Act of 2011”; H.R. 83, the “Bullying Prevention and Intervention Act of 2011”; and H.R. 2189, the “Death in Custody Reporting Act of 2011.” H.R. 1981 was ordered reported, as amended. The markup is scheduled to continue on August 1, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs held a hearing on the following: H.R. 50, the “Multinational Species Conservation Funds Reauthorization Act”; H.R. 1760, the “Great Ape Conservation Reauthorization Amendments Act”; and H.R. 1761, the “Marine Turtle Conservation Reauthorization Act.” Testimony was heard from Teiko Saito, Assistant Director for International Affairs, Fish and Wildlife Service; and public witnesses.

IMPROPER MEDICARE PAYMENTS

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Government Organization, Efficiency and Financial Management held a hearing entitled “Improper Medicare Payments: \$48 Billion in Waste?” Testimony was heard from Daniel R. Levinson, Inspector General, Office of the Inspector General, Health and Human Services; Michelle Snyder, Deputy Chief Operating Officer, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; Kay Daly, Director of Financial Management and Assurance, GAO; and Kathleen King, Director of Health Care, GAO.

IMPACT OF OBAMACARE ON JOB CREATORS AND THEIR DECISION TO OFFER HEALTH INSURANCE

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Health Care, District of Columbia, Census, and the National Archives held a hearing entitled “Impact of Obamacare on Job Creators and Their Decision to Offer Health Insurance.” Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

WAIVING CLAUSE 6(a) OF RULE XIII (REQUIRING A TWO-THIRDS VOTE TO CONSIDER A RULE ON THE SAME DAY IT IS REPORTED FROM THE RULES COMMITTEE)

Committee on Rules: Granted, by a record vote of 8 to 4, a rule waiving clause 6(a) of rule XIII (requiring a two-thirds vote to consider a rule on the same day it is reported from the Rules Committee) against certain resolutions reported from the Rules Committee. The rule applies the waiver to any resolution reported through the legislative day of August 2, 2011.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Full Committee held a markup of H.R. 2484, the “Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2011.” The bill was ordered reported, as amended.

SMALL BUSINESSES AND PPACA

Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Healthcare and Technology held a hearing entitled “Small Businesses and PPACA: If They Like Their Coverage, Can They Keep It?” Testimony was heard from Steven B. Larsen, Deputy Administrator and Director, Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; and public witnesses.

IMPACT OF THE CFPB ON SMALL BUSINESS

Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Investigations, Oversight and Regulations held a hearing

entitled “Open for Business: The Impact of the CFPB on Small Business.” Testimony was heard from Dan Sokolov, Deputy Associate Director for Research, Markets and Regulations, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a markup on the following: H.R. 2243, the “Veterans Employment Promotion Act”; H.R. 2388, the “Access to Timely Information Act”; and H.R. 2383, the “Modernizing Notice to Claimants Act.” The following was forwarded, as amended: H.R. 2383. The following were forwarded without amendment: H.R. 2243 and H.R. 2388.

EVALUATING VA’S SDVOSB CERTIFICATION PROCESS

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing on Evaluating VA’s SDVOSB Certification Process. Testimony was heard from Belinda J. Finn, Assistant Inspector General for Audits and Evaluations, Office of Inspector General, Department of Veterans Affairs; Gregory Kutz, Director, Forensic Audit and Investigative Services, GAO; and Tom Leney, Executive Director, Small and Veteran Business Programs, Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, Department of Veterans Affairs.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Subcommittee on Health held a markup of the following: H.R. 1154, the “Veterans Equal Treatment for Service Dogs Act”; H.R. 1855, the “Veterans’ Traumatic Brain Injury Rehabilitative Services’ Improvements Act of 2011”; H.R. 2074, the “Veterans Sexual Assault Prevention Act”; H.R. 2530, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for increased flexibility in establishing rates for reimbursement of State homes by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for nursing home care provided to veterans; and H.R. 2646, to authorize certain Department of Veterans Affairs major medical facility projects and leases, to extend certain expiring provisions of law, and to modify certain authorities of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes. The following were forwarded, as amended: H.R. 1855 and H.R.

2646. The following were forwarded without amendment: H.R. 1154; H.R. 2074; and H.R. 2530.

NEW IRS PAID TAX RETURN PREPARER PROGRAM

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Oversight held a hearing on the new IRS paid tax return preparer program. Testimony was heard from David Williams, Director, IRS Return Preparer Office, Internal Revenue Service; Jim White, Director, Strategic Issues, GAO; and public witnesses.

ONGOING INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES

House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Full Committee held a hearing on Ongoing Intelligence Activities. This was a closed hearing.

Joint Meetings

COMMITMENTS AND CHALLENGES

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Commission concluded a hearing to examine United States policy and the Organization for Cooperation in Europe, focusing on making good on commitments and challenges, including unresolved conflicts, ethnic tension, corruption and lack of governance, racism and intolerance, and trafficking in persons, after receiving testimony from Philip H. Gordon, Assistant Secretary, Office of European and Eurasian Affairs, and Michael H. Posner, Assistant Secretary, Office of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, both of the Department of State; Alexander Vershbow, Assistant Secretary of Defense, Office of International Security Affairs; Michael Haltzel, Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies Center for Transatlantic Relations, Washington, D.C.; and Catherine Fitzpatrick, Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights, New York, New York.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, JULY 29, 2011

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

9:30 a.m., Friday, July 29

Senate Chamber

Program for Friday: Following any Leader remarks, Senate will recess until 11 a.m. Following which, Senate will be in a period of morning business. At 12 p.m., the Majority Leader will be recognized.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Friday, July 29

House Chamber

Program for Friday: Resume consideration of S. 627—Faster FOIA Act of 2011 (Budget Control Act of 2011).

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Brady, Kevin, Tex., E1430
Capps, Lois, Calif., E1434
Cleaver, Emanuel, Mo., E1435
Crenshaw, Ander, Fla., E1429
Emerson, Jo Ann, Mo., E1435
Fitzpatrick, Michael G., Pa., E1429
Gardner, Cory, Colo., E1436

Green, Al, Tex., E1430
Hanabusa, Colleen W., Hawaii, E1436
Hastings, Alcee L., Fla., E1436
Keating, William R., Mass., E1436
King, Steve, Iowa, E1431, E1433
Luetkemeyer, Blaine, Mo., E1433
Maloney, Carolyn B., N.Y., E1430, E1437
Matsui, Doris O., Calif., E1432
Miller, Candice S., Mich., E1432

Norton, Eleanor Holmes, D.C., E1431
Payne, Donald M., N.J., E1429
Schock, Aaron, Ill., E1430
Smith, Adrian, Nebr., E1429
Townsend, Edolphus, N.Y., E1431
Waters, Maxine, Calif., E1433
Welch, Peter, Vt., E1431
Wilson, Joe, S.C., E1435
Wu, David, Ore., E1434



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